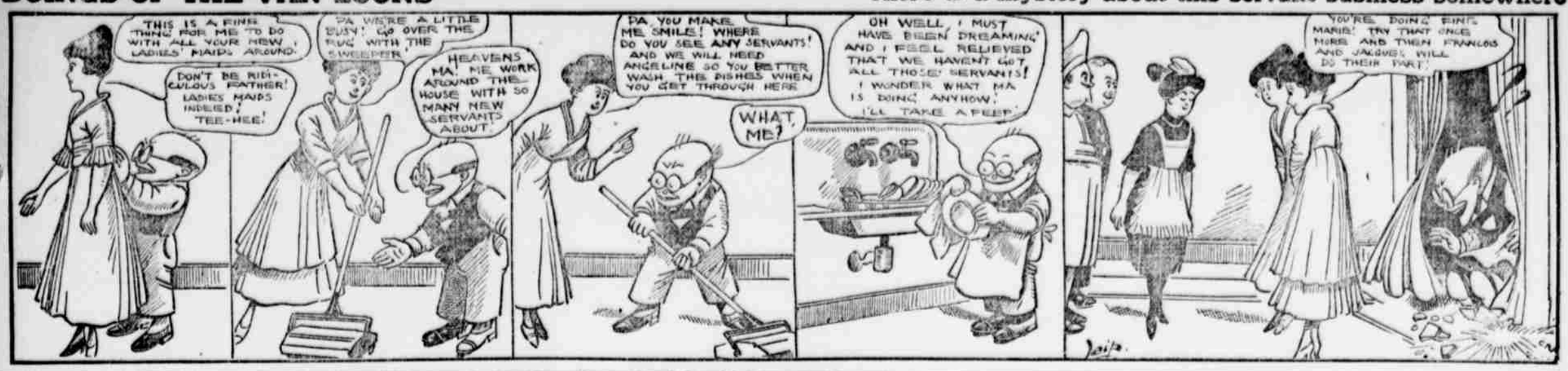
DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS

There is a mystery about this servant business somewhere



ANALYZING A HAIR.

Science Reads It as Expert Woodsman Read the Trees.

To the German analyst hair is packed with information. The approximate age and physical condition can be constructed by an examination of a single hair.

The hair of every animal has certain distinguishing characteristics. It is not to be mistaken by a competent investigator. Some animals, as for example the cow, have three types of hair. These will be known by their structure. Under a proper microscopical examination hairs will be as easily distinguished by an expert as varieties of trees in a grove will be distinguished by a forester.

There was a case in which a dagger found on the prisoner had a few short hairs caught entangled in a nick of the blade. He explained this by saying that he had used the dagger to kill a rabbit that he had found trapped in a hedge. The authorities reported to the police, after an examination of the dagger, that the hairs were not of human origin, but they also added they were not rabbit hairs; they were squirrel hairs.

The police were extremely puzzled until they finally discovered that on the night of the homicide the prisoner had worn a great coat trimmed with squirrel fur. He had, in fact, carefully washed the knife after the assassination and thereby removed every evidence of his act; but, unfortunately for him, he made the mistake of attempting to dry the dagger by wiping it on the fur lining of his great coat.—Melville Davisson Post in Saturday Evening Post.

INSECT MARVELS.

These Tireless Creatures Are Built For the Strenuous Life.

Many interesting facts, the result of long study, are given by Mr. Harold Bastin, an eminent entomologist, in his book, "Insects, Their Life Histories and Habits."

"Contrary to popular belief, spiders are not insects. Insects have six legs, neither more nor less, and another peculiarity of the insect is that it has wings—sometimes two, more often four. Spiders have eight legs and no wings; therefore spiders are not insects.

"Insects have no backbones and no skeletons, but skins with a hard, durable surface called chitin, which makes up a light shell of armor that forms the outside of the body, to the inside of which the muscles are attached. Insects do not breathe through their mouths, but through holes in the bodies called spiracles. Insects have neither veins nor arteries; the blood is pumped directly from the chambered heart into the body cavity, where it bathes and nourishes the organs. Insects have wonderful and enviable digestive organs and feed upon and digest almost any substance from which nourishment may be extracted.

"Because of the way they are built, insects are particularly fitted for the strenuous life, and a tired insect is a thing unknown. They are always busy traveling, buzzing, biting or seeking some work to do."

Blossoms That Bees Love.

A person who has had no experience with bees commonly makes the mistake of supposing that the roses, peonies, sweet peas, dahlias or other gaudy blossoms of his garden will furnish a quantity of honey. Their value is almost negligible, except that some of them yield a little pollen. It is to the modest white clover in the orchard or on the roadside or the weeds of pasture or woodlot or the blossoms of trees like the basswood that the bees go for the bulk of their honey. It does not pay to cultivate any plant for its value as a honey producer. The orchard is a splendid place for the apiary, where the bees can build up on the first nectar in the spring, and the blossoms have the benefit of the bees' visits.—John W. Love in Countryside Magazine.

A MODISH MAIDEN.

Blue is the note struck in all summer ginghams, linens and cotton goods for children. This school child, then, wears a pretty frock of pale blue linen with a side plaited skirt and a corselet top over a white batiste guimpe.

SECRET OF A FLOWER.

How Did the Trumpet Vine Discover the Bared Stump?

If some one advanced the theory that this plant had some unknown power of reasoning you would probably reply that "plants can't reason because they have no mind." You may change your opinion after you hear this story, related by Royal Dixon, who writes entertainingly about how near like human beings in their actions plants are.

The story is about a trumpet vine, the favorite of many an old fashioned garden. About twenty feet from where it grew was an old pine stump with the bark on. One day a fire was built about the foot of the stump, and the bark was burned off.

Immediately the trumpet vine sent forth a long trailer across the garden to the stump. It raised the tendrils, felt the smooth surface of the stump and started to climb. Before long the whole blackened surface was hidden beneath the leaves and blossoms of the new vine.

With the rough bark on the stump provided no surface for the clinging tendrils of the vine. After the fire destroyed the bark the vine found a place to climb.

How did the plant know that the fire had prepared the stump? We don't know. Ask the flower.—Philadelphia North American.

Cellini's Quick Cure.

Benvenuto Cellini when about to cast his famous statue of Perseus, now in the Loggia del Lanzi at Florence, was taken with a sudden fever. In the midst of his suffering one of his workmen rushed into his sick chamber and exclaimed, "Oh, Benvenuto, your statue is spoiled, and there is no hope whatever of saving it!" Cellini said that when he heard this he gave a howl and leaped from his bed. Dressing hastily, he rushed to his furnace and found his metal "caked." He ordered dry oak wood and fired the furnace fiercely, working in a rain that was falling, stirred the channels and saved his metal. He continues the story thus: "After all was over I turned to a plate of salad on a bench there and ate with a hearty appetite and drank together with the whole crew. Afterward I retired to my bed, healthy and happy, for it was two hours before morning, and slept as sweetly as if I had never felt a touch of illness."

The new building for the Department of the Interior at Washington will cost $2 000,000.

ABOUT ROAD DRAGGING.

System That Will Contribute Much to Making of Better Highways.

In the following communication Mr. O. W. Haney of Davis county, Ia., deals with the question of road dragging and outlines a system of dragging that will, in his opinion, contribute in the greatest possible degree to the making of good roads. He writes:

"It is getting the time of year when the road drag will soon come into play, and there are several things that ought to be brought before the public in regard to road dragging. There are more roads spoiled by dragging than there are made good if not properly dragged in the first place. It requires two rounds to drag a road right, and if they are not dragged right it is money wasted. By two rounds you get out to the ditch and give the water a clear shoot to the ditch. If only one round is made it should be made out to ditch. By dragging one round in the middle of the road you get a ditch started where the end of the drag leaves a little furrow, and this damages the road more than it would cost to drag it twice as much or to drag it twice. I am on the roads every day, and I have seen great ditches cut by poor dragging that it would cost ten times as much to repair as the dragging cost. So why not pay for good dragging and have good roads? It would save money. Then teach the people to drive on the same side of the road when it is muddy and save half of the dragging, and tax. I have seen a smooth road get a big rain in the winter and the people drive all over it from ditch to ditch and cut it all up. Then a freeze comes and it is almost impossible to get over the road, where if they had kept on one side of the road the other would have been smooth and good. This is a great item to people that have to be on the road every day. By poor road work and poor dragging half the people's money is wasted.

"Winter dragging is more necessary than summer and ought to be looked after."

It is not surprising that men differ in their opinions regarding the real merit of the road drag as an implement designed to maintain the road surface. It is quite true, as this subscriber says, that in some instances the road drag does more harm than good, and the special reference he makes to the proper drainage of the road is a point that cannot be too strongly emphasized. We would like to encourage a freer discussion of this phase of the road question. This paper has always been a strong advocate of sensible dragging, and it has been free to express itself at times in opposition to those who have injured the cause of the drag by attaching to it an importance as a road builder to which it never has been and never will be entitled. We have always maintained that a good grade is the first essential in road construction, after which there is abundant opportunity for the exercise of skill in maintaining the surface by the sensible use of the drag.—Iowa Homestead.

ROADS WITHOUT "PORK."

In Kentucky the State Foots Road Improvement Bills.

How a state may build and maintain a system of good roads without either tapping Uncle Sam's pork barrel or imposing a heavy debt on future generations is being impressively demonstrated by Kentucky, says the New York Sun. After three-quarters of a century of inactivity Kentucky began last year to extend state aid to individual counties for highway work. Now 10,636 of the 58,000 miles of public roads are surfaced. The showing is surpassed by only eleven other states, those of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Utah, California and Wisconsin.

A law of 1914 imposes a tax for road purposes and authorizes the state to aid the counties which vote bonds for highway construction. Fourteen counties assumed bonded indebtedness aggregating $2,215,000 last year, and others have arranged to increase their road funds to meet the state's offer. The state intends to disburse about $750,000 annually. No county may receive more than 2 per cent of the total state road fund in any one year, but the payment by the state continues until the county is reimbursed to the amount of half the proceeds of the bonds actually spent on construction.

Some of the counties have started to spend each year an amount exceeding the 20 per cent of the state fund. Thus the compact with the state is virtually perpetual, for it is improbable that the state will ever overtake these counties in expenditures.

According to Governor Stanley, the road building enterprise has already passed the experimental stage. No one now questions the wisdom of the law. The general opinion is expressed in the saying, "The money is not spent; it is invested, and well invested." Moreover, Kentucky's pride in her highway system will be all the greater because the state itself, not the federal government, is footing the bill for improvement.

Permanent Road Work.

Money invested in right of way in reducing grades to the proper maximum and in draining and crowning roadbed, building suitable culverts and drainage structures, represents the most nearly permanent elements that enter into road construction. Money spent for these items properly designed represents permanent road construction. Gravel placed upon a properly located, graded and drained road will often answer immediate needs of that road. This will form the best foundation possible for a high type of construction when that stage is reached.—Orange Judd Farmer.

EDITING SHAKESPEARE.

Nicholas Rowe, Poet Laureate, Was the First to Attempt It.

The first folio was printed partly from the earlier quartos and partly from manuscript copies in the hands of players. It did not have the careful editing that so important a work should have had, but it preserved from destruction a number of the plays that had not appeared in quarto form.

Nicholas Rowe, poet laureate and dramatist, in his edition of 1709 made the first attempt to edit Shakespeare in the modern sense. He modernized spelling, punctuation and grammar, added lists of dramatis personae and divided the acts and scenes properly. Since his time editors have been busily engaged in corrections and emendations.

Alexander Pope, the second editor, issued his Shakespeare in 1723, and this was followed in 1733 by Lewis Theobald's edition, whose bitter attack upon Pope in "Shakespeare Restored" led to the latter's making Theobald the dull and pedantic hero of his "Dunciad." The handsome edition by Sir Thomas Hanmer appeared in 1744 and William Warburton's in 1747. Dr. Samuel Johnson's edition was published in 1765. Then came Edward Capell's in 1767-68, George Steevens' in 1773, Joseph Rann's in 1786-94 and Edward Malone's in 1790.—New York Times.

The Exclusive X Club.

One of the most exclusive of clubs was the X, whose last surviving member was Lord Avebury. It was founded by a little coterie of literary scientists, including Sir Joseph Hooker and Herbert Spencer, and, though intended to comprise ten members, never got beyond nine, because no tenth was found who came up to the two requirements of mental caliber and intimacy with the other nine. Many names for the club were suggested and rejected before a member's wife proposed terming it after the unknown quantity X.—London Opinion.

The Pinebox Philosopher.

Keep a-going, even if you have to race a rainbow.

The only way to get the life out of the land is to prove your title to it.

When you meet Tribulation tell him he looks like Joy's brother-in-law. Even Tribulation loves a sweet liar.

You don't have to travel far to the glory place. It's right where you shine your own light along the road.—Atlanta Constitution.

Not Qualified Yet.

"I saw you out in your new car yesterday."

"Did I look like a motorist?"

"Well, no. You had an air of responsibility that gave you away, but then that will disappear in time."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Light Year.

The term "light year" is one used by astronomers. It helps the astronomers to enable the layman to get some sort of idea of the distances from us of the celestial bodies, the light year standing for the distance that light travels in twelve months' time.

The Sickly Golf Players.

A golf player who had been badly beaten by his opponent explained to him that he had been suffering all day from neuritis. "It's a curious thing," replied his opponent, "but I've never beaten a man in perfect health in my life."

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An Excess of Nerve.

"I like to see a young man energetic and able to push himself," said the old banker sadly. "But when he borrowed the money from me to buy an automobile in which to elope with my daughter it was carrying things a little too far."

Collected Some Alimony Also.

She—This is Maud's third husband, and they all bore the name of William. He—You don't say so! Why, the woman is a regular Bill collector.—New York Times.

Social Inanities.

She—You know, Mr. Jones, I thought you much older than you are. He—Oh, no; not a bit, I assure you.—Boston Transcript.

Notice.

All persons having claims against the selling committee of the F. E. & C. U. of A. of the 1909 crop of red tobacco, sold to Pete Sheeran, Bro. & Co. March 20, 1910, will present same, properly proven, to W. J. Ballman, chairman, on or before June 3. A meeting is called for June 3, 1916, at West View, Ky., at one o'clock. All persons having tobacco in said pool are hereby notified to be present to pass on said claims.

W. J. Ballman,
E. H. Tucker,
H. J. Hayes,
Committee.